

January 30, 1976

SENATOR DICKINSON: I think you are saying something by implication, however, and I have had several phone calls prior to the caller's knowledge that Senator Chambers has even introduced a bill to this effect, that we need something, that people are losing products and you cannot trace them. You cannot reclaim them even if you can prove ownership without paying for them. And this whole bill encompasses that and Senator Chambers has been willing to compromise and accept amendments and I think we shouldn't stall this bill and we should keep it moving with these amendments on.

SENATOR GOODRICH: What I am suggesting, Senator Dickinson, is that if you are trying to use this bill to govern whether or not you have fences, and literally that is the purpose of this bill, is to be able to identify the person that pawns something so that if it turns out to be stolen, then you can identify the person that actually pawned it. Now, if you want to do that, and if you want to do that whole job and not just the 3% of the job, then you go include the used furniture stores, the jewelry stores, anybody that takes in used merchandise. That way you cover the largest percentage of commercial enterprises that handle what can be stolen merchandise. That is all I am saying is that if you want to do 3% of the job, this is the way to do it. If you want to do as much of the job as you can, then go all the way and include the other dealers, the used furniture and the junk shops and the used jewelry stores and that sort of thing.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I want to make one more point. I want to follow this, there is another purpose to this bill and that isn't entirely to find and identify the supposed criminal but it is also to allow the rightful owner to repossess his property without having to pay the charge, and giving the broker...the same that you can do if you were a banker and followed your mortgage credit through the product. If a stolen product is sold or a mortgage product is sold, I should have said, there is some responsibility on the part of the buyer. In the case of pawnbrokers, there is none. The rightful owner, if he can prove ownership, should be able to gain possession of this product and that is a part of this bill and this is done through pawnbrokers.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will support the amendment because I want to support the bill, inasmuch as by doing what comes forth in the amendment, we eliminate some of the situations that probably shouldn't be in the bill. Now the situation as I see it is that the honest pawnbroker sometimes refuses to take what he thinks, and if he gets this photograph, why it will certainly help the entire situation. I am sure that we want to clear up this situation of these stolen goods.

PRESIDENT: Would you want to close debate on Senator Stull's motion, Senator Chambers?